

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at 7:00 pm in room 213 of Town Hall. The meeting was recorded for viewing on Channel 79.

Members present: Kevin Cunningham, Chair; Jennifer Geddes; and
Mary Guimond, Clerk
Member absent: Dr. Jose Cara
Guest: David Knauf, Director of Darien Health Department

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Cunningham. Minutes for the January 19, 2011, meeting were unanimously approved without change. Mr. Knauf provided a Health Department update, as follows:

Public Emergency Response Drill – A drill was called at 8:00 am this date for twelve towns in Region 1, including Darien. This was an all day drill to test capabilities in the event of an anthrax attack in New York City. Procedures and protocols were followed successfully. Such drills are required to fulfill stipulations of the grant Darien receives for public emergency responses. Mr. Knauf supports a Darien POD (point of distribution) rather than the current joint Stamford/Darien POD. ABH members agreed with Mr. Knauf.

Unwanted Drug Recovery Day – This was the second such day Darien has been involved with, in conjunction with the DEA and Police Department. It was very successful, reaping 99 pounds of unwanted drugs. Mr. Knauf is anticipating a permanent depository at the Police station once it has been renovated.

Digital Health Department – After significant effort, Mr. Knauf reports continuing success with automation of the Health Department. Restaurant inspectors now use laptops to enter their findings while on site at the restaurant, generating a rating, which is then automatically uploaded to the town website. While a hard copy is printed for filing purposes, this is the only paper that is generated. Mr. Knauf wants to add beach closures and shellfishing information to the website next, and is pursuing automatic notification to shellfishing permit holders.

Shellfishing – An MOU has been received from the State defining responsibilities between the town and the State. Darien is responsible for recreational shellfishing only with State Aquiculture responsible for commercial shellfishing.

Beach Water Quality – A college student has been engaged to continue last year's water quality testing. Mr. Knauf wants to use this data, combined with last year's, to develop new beach closure protocols. While water quality in the Sound appears to be fine, rain runoff appears to be an issue. This needs to be confirmed with testing this year.

Grease Control Units – The Health Department is working in conjunction with the Department of Public Works to ensure businesses comply with grease control. Some deficiencies have been found.

Stamford Hospital Survey – A health needs assessment is being undertaken by Stamford Hospital (as mandated by the State) and Mr. Knauf will participate along with Chair Cunningham.

Mr. Knauf was excused from the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Chair Cunningham will have pedestrian safety on the agenda for our July meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted on May 28, 2011

Mary Guimond, Clerk